

than for a State of nearly 3½ million people. But that is the way Bob was. He was always, pun intended, on our wavelength, always on our frequency.

That is what made Bob a legend. That is what got him enshrined in the Radio Hall of Fame, the same hall where Jack Benny and Bob Hope are canonized.

The life he lived and the legacy he leaves are even more amazing when you consider Bob's personal journey. He grew up in Kansas City, MO, with his mother, who rented rooms in their apartment to pay the bills. Bob made ends meet himself by delivering telegrams by bicycle and then delivering emergency drug prescriptions by motorcycle. After high school, he tried professional boxing as a welterweight, but couldn't quite hack it in the ring. So he headed out West to Los Angeles, where he got a few bit parts and took to announcing motorcycle races. Then, in the spring, 1936 season, a Hartford motorcycle race promoter recruited him. With no money in his pocket, not even enough to pay the YMCA the \$1 deposit they required for a room, he came to Connecticut. Since then things have never been the same over the airwaves of our great state.

We should have a special appreciation for Bob Steele today. In this era of nonstop news, shrill political debate, and shock jocks, Bob's voice, one of strength, warmth, kindness, and gentle humor, will resonate for generations.

When he wasn't on the airwaves, Bob was a great family man, and a champion of literacy throughout Connecticut's communities. Bob helped create the Bob Steele Literacy Volunteers Reading Center in Hartford and wrote a book called, "The Word for the Day: 65 Years of Wit & Wisdom on Mispronunciation."

Wit and wisdom were two things he had in surplus. One morning a few years ago, when Bob blew a cue, something that was very rare for someone so seasoned, he recovered gracefully. "That 5-second pause was due to my inexperience," he said. "I'm new here."

The word of the day, which Bob taught us every single morning, was his trademark. In that spirit, let me suggest that one word exemplified every day in Bob's life and career. That word is "friend."

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his widow Shirley, their four sons Robert, Paul, Philip and Steven, and their grandchildren and great grandchildren. May God bless them and bless the memory of Bob Steele.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-342. A communication from the Senior Paralegal, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alternative Mortgage Transaction Parity Act; Preemption—Delay of Effective Date (RIN1550-AB51)" received on December 12, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-343. A communication from the Senior Paralegal, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Record keeping and Confirmation Requirements for Securities Transactions; Fiduciary Powers of Savings Associations (RIN1550-AB49)" received on December 12, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-344. A communication from the Senior Paralegal, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Reporting Standards: Qualifications for Independent Public Accounting Performing Audit Services for Voluntary Audit Filers (RIN1550-AB54)" received on December 12, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-345. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of Public Debt, Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Governmental Securities Act Regulations: Large Position Rules, amends 17 CFR Part 420 (RIN1505-AA88)" received on December 17, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-346. A communication from the Deputy Congressional Liaison, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transaction Between Member Banks and Their Affiliates—Miscellaneous Interpretations" received on December 2, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-347. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Costs and Expenses by Insurance Company Separate Accounts Registered as Unit Investment Trusts That Offer Variable Annuity Contracts (RIN3235-A139)" received on November 18, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-348. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Standards of Integrity and Fitness for an FDIC Contractor (RIN3064-AC29)" received on December 12, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-349. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban

Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, received on December 12, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-350. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, received on December 12, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-351. A communication from the Vice Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to South Africa, received on November 25, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-352. A communication from the Vice Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to U.S. export transactions involving U.S. exports to Australia, received on December 12, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-353. A communication from the Vice Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Ireland, received on November 18, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-354. A communication from the Vice Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Romania, received on November 18, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-355. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Affordable Housing Program Amendments (RIN3069-AB16)" received on November 25, 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-356. A communication from the Under Secretary, Arms Control and International Security, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report concerning an amendment to Part 121 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-357. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States under the Case-Zablocki Act, received on November 25, 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-358. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the temporary export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to International Waters, Pacific Ocean or French Guiana; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-359. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations concerning major program authorization (MPA) and Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification involving the export of electronic power generating systems to Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom in support of the Eurofighter program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-360. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the